

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV GR

SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS: A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT ELECTED
AND A NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTY EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY

1. THEMISTOCLES KONITSAS, A NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTY FROM BOEOTIA, WAS ELECTED FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT ON JANUARY 12 TO REPLACE GEORGE STAMATIS WHO WAS RECENTLY NAMED MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER (ATHENS 0076). KONITSAS RECEIVED 200 VOTES AS AGAINST 11 VOTES RECEIVED BY A PASOK CANDIDATE, IOANNIS KOUTSOHERAS (67 BLANK VOTES WERE ALSO CAST).

2. KONITSAS, 75 YEARS OF AGE, WAS FIRST ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1935 AS A POPULIST PARTY CANDIDATE AND WAS SUCCESSIVELY REELECTED TO PARLIAMENT THROUGH THE ELECTIONS OF 1961. (HE DID NOT RUN IN 1964 AND RAN AGAIN IN 1974.) IN THE FOUR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SPANNING THE PERIOD 1956-1961, HE RAN ON THE NATIONAL RADICAL UNION (ERE) TICKET, THE PARTY WHICH WAS THEN HEADED BY CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS. FROM 1962-1956 HE SERVED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND FROM 1958 THROUGH 1961 HE SERVED AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS.

3. IN ANOTHER PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENT, THE NEW DEMOCRACY LEADERSHIP EXPELLED ONE OF ITS DEPUTIES,
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HIPPOCRATIS SAVVOURAS (ATHENS CONSTITUENCY) AS THE

RESULT OF THE DISCOVERY THIS PAST WEEKEND OF AN ARMS
CACHE IN AN ATHENS APARTMENT RENTED BY HIM. SAVVOURAS (A KNOWN
PRO-MONARCHIST) REPORTEDLY HAS CLAIMED THAT THE ARMS WERE
LEFT OVER FROM THE TIME OF THE MILITARY REGIME WHEN HE WAS
ACTIVE IN THE RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION "GREEK ANTI-DICTATORIAL
YOUTH" AND THAT HE HAD PLANNED TO TURN THEM IN. IN
ANNOUNCING HIS EXPULSION, THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY
STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT SAVVOURAS' ACTION IN MAIN-
TAINING THE ARMS, "IRRESPECTIVE OF ITS PENAL NATURE ON
WHICH JUSTICE WILL DECIDE, IS POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE".
WITH SAVVOURAS' EXPULSION, THE ND PARLIAMENTARY
MAJORITY NOW NUMBERS 215 OF THE 300 MEMBER BODY. THE
STRENGTH OF THE OTHER PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS REMAIN AS
FOLLOWS: CU/NF - 61; PASOK - 15, THE LEFT - 8
(EDA-1, KKE/INTERIOR-2, KKE/EXTERIOR-5). KUBISCH

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